

REMARKS

The necessary changes are made in the specification.

The claims previously in the case have been replaced by a set of new claims that are believed to be proper as to form and clearly patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration is accordingly respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as anticipated by EP 0 054 328 or SETZER U.S. Patent 6,444,181.

In both of these references, it is the walls of the chamber that are subjected to ultrasonic vibration generated outside the chamber. Thus, the processes of the references differ fundamentally from that of the present invention, in two respects:

1. The oscillators of the references are ultrasonic; and
2. The walls of the chamber are directly vibrated.

Vibration in the ultrasonic range corresponds to ultrasonic cleaning. At high frequencies, namely, ultrasonic frequencies, this may not be damaging to the walls of the chamber. But when low frequencies, such as acoustic frequencies, are used, the walls are vibrated as if by a hammer and this damages the walls of the chamber, as is pointed out in the introductory material of our specification.

In sharp contrast to the cited references, therefore, the present invention provides for an acoustic generator within the chamber, including a horn directed inwardly of the chamber.

This enables low frequency cleaning of the walls of the chamber without damage to the chamber, in sharp contrast to the prior art.

The new claims bring out these distinctions with ample particularity and so are believed to be patentable over the cited references no matter how applied.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing Remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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